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CIA protesters at CU claim win over agency

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BOULDER — The CIA does not plan to return to the University of Colorado to recruit this spring.

A spokesman said yesterday the agency is hampered by Gramm-Rudman act-related budget cuts.

But an attorney who represents CIA protesters isn't buying that.

"My reaction is that they are lying as usual, and that our campaign to drive the CIA recruiters off campus has been successful," said attorney George Johnson of Boulder.

"If there is ever an organization that is not going to be subject to Gramm-Rudman, it is the CIA," he said. "If they wanted to recruit at the University of Colorado, they would find the means, Gramm-Rudman or no Gramm-Rudman."

Meg Ruby, a recent graduate of CU and an organizer of recent anti-CIA demonstrations there, said, "It's a major victory for us, definitely."

"The CIA is not really affected that much by Gramm-Rudman. Their using that excuse is pretty pitiful, I think. That's crazy, and we don't buy it for one instant. We made it really tough for them."

Tom White, director of recruiting for the CIA's 11-state Rocky Mountain region, was not surprised by the reactions of Johnson and Ruby.

"If I were them, that's what I would say," White said with a laugh.

"As a matter of fact, I recall from the last time we were there that somebody said, 'If they don't

show up again, that means we won.' There's nothing I can do about that."

Appearances by CIA recruiters for three days last April and one day in November, have generated massive protests by students and area residents at CU.

Police made 478 arrests in April and 210 arrests in November, but only six protesters from the November demonstration were prosecuted.

White said the decision not to visit campus this semester is not etched in stone, but he doesn't expect it will be reversed.

White said the CIA used nine interviewers at CU on Nov. 18. Of the nine, "three or four" were retired agents used by the agency for purposes such as recruiting.

"Gramm-Rudman is a mass of confusion to everybody," White said. "My people are no different from anybody else in government."

The controversial Gramm-Rudman deficit bill, named for its sponsors, Rep. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, and Sen. Warren Rudman, R-N.H., was rushed into law in December and would eliminate the \$200 billion budget deficit by 1991.

It mandates across-the-board budget cuts in steps, with some areas such as Social Security spared, if officials can't agree on specific cuts.

Instead of recruiting at CU this semester, the CIA will suggest that interested students send their resumes to CU's career services office. The office will assist the CIA in screening applicants, and applicants will be scheduled for interviews in Denver.